

CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows; cancel claims 10-22; and add new claims 26-33.

1. (Currently Amended) A panelling system for covering a substrate with a plurality of panels, said system comprising at least two panels adapted for fitment together along adjacent edges thereof and a fitment member adapted for connection to at least said at least two panels;

each said panel having a panel body, an outer surface, an inner surface and a plurality of edges, a kerf extending into said panel body between said inner and said outer surfaces from at least one of said panel edges, and a rabbet portion extending into said panel body at said inner surface from said at least one panel edge; and

said fitment member including a central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from said web portion and adapted for a tight fit in a respective panel kerf, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of said web portion and adapted for a flush fit in a respective rabbet portion of a panel[.];

one of said second flanges of each fitment member including means for securing that fitment member to the panel associated therewith and the other of said second flanges including means for securing said fitment member to the substrate;

whereby with said at least two panels engaging said fitment member along the respective at least one panel edges, said panels will be spaced from each other by the thickness of said fitment member web portion and said panels will be interconnected by way of said first and second flanges engaging the respective kerfs and rabbet portions.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein each of said first flanges decreases in thickness towards the outer end thereof to facilitate entrance of the first flange into a corresponding kerf.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein each of said ~~second flanges~~ includes securing means comprises a plurality of apertures ~~therethrough~~ extending through the respective second flange for reception of fastening means adapted to secure said fitment member to a panel or to the substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein each of said ~~second flanges~~ includes securing means comprises a plurality of countersunk apertures ~~therethrough~~ extending through the respective second flange for reception of corresponding flat-head screws, with the apertures of one of said second flanges being oriented opposite to the apertures of the other of said second flanges, whereby one set of said screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to one of said panels and another set of screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to said substrate.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein said panels are arranged generally one above another, with said adjacent edges extending generally horizontally, and with said fitment member secured to a lower one of the panels by way of said one set of screws, said fitment member secured to said substrate by said another set of screws, and an upper one of said panels engaging said fitment member via corresponding first and second flanges only.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that extends beyond the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that is flush with the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion matches said decorative covering.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion contrasts with said decorative covering.

10-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A panelling system for covering interior wall surfaces of an elevator cab with a plurality of panels, said system comprising a plurality of panels adapted for fitment together along adjacent edges thereof and a plurality of fitment members adapted for connection to adjacent pairs of panels to interconnect such adjacent panels together;

each said panel having a panel body, an outer surface, an inner surface and a plurality of edges, a kerf extending into said panel body between said inner and said outer surfaces from at least one of said panel edges, and a rabbet portion extending into said panel body at said inner surface from said at least one panel edge; and

each said fitment member including a central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from said web portion and adapted for a tight fit in a respective panel kerf, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of said web portion and adapted for a flush fit in a respective rabbet portion of a panel;

one of said second flanges of each fitment member including means for securing that fitment member to the panel associated therewith and the other of said second flanges including means for securing said fitment member to a wall surface to be covered;

whereby with the pair of panels engaging said fitment member along the respective adjacent panel edges, said panels will be spaced from each other by the thickness of said fitment member web portion and said panels will be interconnected by way of said first and second flanges engaging the respective kerfs and rabbet portions.

24. (Original) The panelling system of claim 23 wherein said fitment members can extend generally vertically, generally horizontally, or at an angle to the vertical within said elevator cab.

25. (Original) The panelling system of claim 23 including a decorative cap member having a web portion, a first flange extending laterally of said web portion, and a second flange extending from an end of said web portion parallel to said first flange, said cap member being adapted for fitment in the kerf and rabbet portion of an end panel.

26. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein each of said first flanges decreases in thickness towards the outer end thereof to facilitate entrance of the first flange into a corresponding kerf.

27. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein each of said securing means comprises a plurality of apertures extending through the respective second flange for reception of fastening means adapted to secure said fitment member to a panel or to the wall surface to be covered.

28. (New) The panelling system of claim 23 wherein each of said securing means comprises a plurality of countersunk apertures extending through the respective second flange for reception of corresponding flat-head screws, with the apertures of one of said second flanges being oriented opposite to the apertures of the other of said second flanges, whereby one set of said screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to one of said panels and another set of screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to said wall surface to be covered.

29. (New) The system of claim 28 wherein said panels are arranged generally one above another, with said adjacent edges extending generally horizontally, and with said fitment member secured to a lower one of the panels by way of said one set of screws, said fitment member secured to said wall surface to be covered by said another set of screws, and an upper one of said panels engaging said fitment member via corresponding first and second flanges only.

30. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that extends beyond the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

31. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that is flush with the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

32. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion matches said decorative covering.

33. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion contrasts with said decorative covering.